

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Policies to Promote Rural Radio Service and to Streamline Allotment and Assignment Procedures*, MB Docket No. 09-52

The Commission is taking a step in the right direction today by establishing a priority for American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages proposing FM allotments, and submitting AM and noncommercial educational FM filing window applications. The Tribes and Villages have been woefully underrepresented among the radio ownership ranks, and for decades they have suffered a lack of radio programming addressing issues of importance to them. As a result, many Tribal members simply do not have access to a critical source of information that can contribute significantly to the economic and community development of Native peoples.

The importance of the Tribal Priority is further highlighted by the unique responsibility Tribal entities have as sovereign nations to govern, educate, and care for their members. The Commission recognized the significance of this charge in its 2000 *Tribal Policy Statement*. And as Native Public Media and the National Congress of American Indians have recently reminded us, a Tribal Priority would be – and now is – the Commission’s first step in implementing our *Tribal Policy Statement* for broadcasting services. Thank you to the staffs of the Media Bureau and the Office of General Counsel for their hard work and attention to detail in producing this important item.